

MISCELLANEOUS.

On the Anatomy of certain Agnathous Pulmonate Mollusks.

To the Editors of the 'Annals and Magazine of Natural History.'

GENTLEMEN,—In the 'Annals' for January 1901 is a paper by Mr. W. E. Collinge with the above title. The author says "he is unable to confirm many of my statements" published in the 'Proceedings of the Malacological Society of London,' vol. i. (1893). I think, however, two errors into which I was led can be explained. The drawings on pl. i. figs. 10 & 12 represent parts magnified, and drawn, with the aid of a camera lucida, as presented to me. The vas deferens joined the penis where I have shown it, and is free from that point: so far that drawing is not incorrect, for there was nothing to indicate that it continued, hidden by tissue, to the distal end of the penis*. The specimen is in the Natural History Museum; with more material and in better condition I might possibly have detected what Mr. Collinge was enabled to do. Next, as to the "knob-like process" and "nipple-like crenulations": here I was certainly deceived by appearances caused by myself during dissection. On slitting up the more open part of the penis-tube as far as it was possible, and turning back the severed sides, a solid end was presented (fig. 12), and the nipple-like crenulations I saw were, no doubt, I think now, nothing more than the broken ends of the rugose lining of the organ meeting together where the tube became closely contracted. This certainly did not strike me at the time, and it is evident they have no structural existence as papillate growths round a central main papilla†. It is satisfactory to find these points of detail more clearly defined by Mr. Collinge: the only way in which science can advance is to frankly compare and criticize one another's results. We are all liable to make mistakes—more liable to make false deductions—and the sooner they are put right the better. I must, however, take exception to the following sentence:—"On the supposition that the vas deferens in this species was very short &c., Godwin-Austen proposed to place the genera *Paryphanta*, *Eilea*, and *Schizoglossa* in a new subfamily." This is not exactly what I said. I did not single out any particular organ or specify any minor details of the anatomy. I came to my conclusion on the broad grounds of general structure of an Agnathous group, and more particularly mentioned the more or less perfect shell-bearing and slug-like species occurring in the families and subfamilies referred to.

Yours &c.,

H. H. GODWIN-AUSTEN.

Nore, Godalming,
15th April, 1901.

* This is a character in itself.

† Nothing at all like this, in fact, is found which my drawing would indicate.